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April 10, 2002 LB 1085

Senator Quandahl, Senator Dierks. Some reality. And Senator Wickersham began with this talk this morning that \$36 million shortfall in March, April not looking good. Finally, reality is Somebody brought up the 7.2 percent growth. about to hit. Senator Raikes I believe brought that up. Totally out of reality. Not realistic. We have a problem. And these people that are speaking in favor of LB 1085 make a good, good solid case for passing LB 1085 and sustaining all the vetoes, the Governor's veto. We can sustain a veto, pass LB 1085, and we're still in trouble. We don't have a cash reserve here--none. Senator Kristensen in the discussion, we have a day and a half's money sitting there. I don't know what the April figures look like but I'm going from what Senator Wickersham said, they don't look good, so I'm assuming we're going to be back. Senator Chambers has been here a long time. He says we'll have a Special Session. I'm getting ready for it. We'll be back. don't...I don't think there's much question about it if revenues keep falling below projections. This is a little bit like breaking a 4-H calf to lead, if you ask me. It's...this government has not quite accepted the halter yet. We're going to downsize government. I don't see any way around it. Senator Landis makes the point. He made it in the Special Session. remember that five-minute speech well. We have long-term commitments with declining revenue. We can't do it. going to downsize government. What I'm telling people out there that don't want me to cut this or don't want to cut that: get your priorities in line, folks. We're going to downsize government. I don't see an alternative and this hurts me a lot. I have good people out in the Rotunda, good friends doing a good job, their programs are being cut. It hurts me a lot, but we're going to downsize government. We have to get that through our heads and we can either do it now; we can start with it now or we can postpone it till maybe May or June and take a bigger whack at it then and it will be, you know, called into cut. We won't be called in to raise taxes. We'll be called in to cut. So this whole discussion this morning has been interesting to me in that it started off with a bit of reality from Senator Wickersham. We could pass this bill and we can sustain the Governor's vetoes, and we're still in trouble. So I think we need to have this good, solid dose of reality that we're not going to continue doing business the way we have.